

From: lucas russell [mailto:pgfisherman1@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 9:56 PM
To: mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA in the Monterey Bay

Dear MLPA group,

I would like to go on record regarding the MLPA effort in the Monterey Bay. I believe in conservation, I believe in sustainability, I believe in leaving our natural resources in better shape than we found them. But I also believe in reality and understand that the Monterey Bay is a very popular area shared by many diverse user groups and has been for many, many years. This is an area for sharing but with proper stewardship to ensure sustainability. The diver group, or at least their vocal leaders, want to tag the bay for their own use under the guise of conservation. I understand that one of their arguments is their supposed "socio-economic" contribution to the area. I have been a scuba diver here for over 30 years and I can assure you that the typical diving visitor to the area, packs a bag lunch, brings their equipment with them, and drives home at the end of the day. I don't know of any other group that is trying so hard to "claim" the Monterey Bay for themselves. From attending meetings, to reading the web, to reading the newspaper, I honestly believe that every group, other than the diver group, has stepped up and is ready to share in a very conservation minded manner that would work not only from the human aspect, but more importantly, for the environment. I highly recommend that you look very closely at the diver proposal and take it with a very large grain of salt. Of the proposals on the table, package #1 seem to be the only one that is very conservation minded, protects the heritage of Monterey, and understands that everyone deserves to enjoy the Monterey Bay.

Thank you for giving me a chance tell you what I believe.